

II. Description of a new Coleopterous Genus, belonging to the Tribe PRIONIDA, termed TORNEUTES. By G. CH. REICH, M. D., For. M. L. S. Lond., For. M. E. S., &c.

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AMONG a considerable number of coleopterous insects, collected in the province *Entre Rios*, of the state of *Argentina*, in South America, I had the pleasure to obtain the type of a new Genus of the Tribe of PRIONIDA, which differs from each of the genera of LONGICORNES, *Latr.*, published (in the new classification) of that family, in the *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France*, tome i. Paris, 1832, 8vo. p. 118, &c., by M. Audinet-Serville, in so many points, that it cannot be brought under any of the fifty genera therein established. It is, especially in the much lengthened, slender, and subcylindric, or rather subdepressed form of its body, the uncommon number of twelve joints in the antennæ, the parallelo-piped form of its unarmed thorax, and the shortness of its legs, by which it is distinguished at first sight from all the other genera of this tribe; and although the decreasing length and increasing narrowness of the joints of its filiform antennæ, from the basal joint to the apex, give to this insect some resemblance to the sub-tribe SPONDYLII, which the above-mentioned distinguished French Entomologist has placed at the head of his tribe PRIONII, or rather with the genus PARANDRA, excluded by him from that tribe (so that we might possibly consider this new genus as the connecting link between the SPONDYLII and PRIONII); yet it possesses a greater affinity to the last, so that it seems impossible to separate it from them, without violating the rules of a sound natural arrangement.

The Latin language being that of the true scholar in natural history, is here adopted. I would also suggest, at the same time, that the general appellations of the *Orders*, *Tribes*, and *Families*, as being adjectives referring to the substantives *Insecta*, *Colcoptera*, *Eleutherata*, &c. should always be given in the neuter gender, and never in the masculine or feminine.

Familia: LONGICORNIA. *Latr.*

Tribus: PRIONIDA.

Genus: TORNEUTES. (Tab. 2. fig. 1, 2, 3.)

CORPUS elongatum, angustum, æquale, subcylindricum, *Statura* lineari, depressiuscula, et *facie* fere *Parandræ* giganteæ aut *Monotomatis* mutici.

CAPUT exsertum, porrectum, subrotundatum, latitudine in medio

thoracem æquante, longitudine hoc fere dimidio breviori, fronte inæquali impressa aut subretusa, fulvo pilosa, vertice convexiori, *subtus* utrinque ad menti insertionem *dente distincto* instructum.

Antennæ filiformes, breviusculæ, vix insertionem pedum intermedi-
orum excedentes, ante oculos ad basin mandibularum insertæ, *duodecim articulatæ*, articulis a basi ad apicem usque sensim sensimque angustioribus et brevioribus, subcompressis, primo omnium longiori et validiori, basi subattenuato, apice subclavato; secundo brevissimo, hemisphærico; tertio basali paullo breviori et tenuiori, cylindrico; quarto præcedente iterum paullo breviori, subcylindrico; quinto et sexto fere æqualibus; septimo et octavo vix paullisper brevioribus, tenuioribus, æqualibus; nono, decimo et undecimo iterum paullo brevioribus et attenuatis, singulo vix tertiam basalis partem æquante; duodecimo et ultimo tenuissimo, subacuminato.

Oculi laterales, semilunares, parum prominuli, reticulati.

Clypeus transversus, integer, brevissimus, medio late emarginatus, pilis fulvis vestitus.

Labrum corneum, laminæforme, angustum, productum, quadratum, spatium intra mandibularum basin occupans, antice leviter emarginatum et medio fasciculo scrobiformi pilorum fulvorum præditum.

Mandibulæ corneæ, exsertæ, porrectæ, validæ, subtrigonæ, compressæ, punctatæ, basi latissimæ, longitudine caput fere æquantes, extus ad basin angulatæ, versus apicem subarcuatæ, apice acuto subincurvo terminatæ, intus verticaliter emarginatæ, dentibus tribus, anteriori sub apice obtusiori, medio acutiori, postico ad basin intus dilatatam subacuto, munatæ.

Maxillæ corneæ, subtrigonæ, oblique insitæ, inæqualiter constructæ, basi latissimæ, extus deorsum in processum longiorem apice subacutum et plicas corneas protensæ: *lobo interno* continuo conice assurgente, brevi, ubique una cum margine interno baseos subtiliter ciliato, *externo* sessili, internum longitudine duplo excedente, basi attenuato, sursum latiori, ovato, densius et fortius ciliato: *palpis maxillaribus* validiusculis, quadriarticulatis, ad basin lobi externi maxillæ lateri hujus affixis, nudis: articulo basali gracili, basi attenuato, apice vix paullo crassiori, secundo multo crassiori a basi graciliori in clavam subovatam extenso, tertio pæne dimidio breviori, crassiusculo, obovato, quarto paullo attenuato & longiori, apice obtuso.

Mentum corneum, brevissimum, late transversum, subarcuatum, medio denticulo vix conspicuo instructum: *labio* angusto, antice subemarginato, utrinque subtilissime ciliato: *palpis labialibus* maxillares longitudine æquantibus, basi approximatis, ad denticulum menti insertis, triarticulatis; articulo basali brevi, crassiusculo, cylindrico, pubescenti-ciliato, secundo et tertio elongatis, nudis, priori quam basali triplo fere longiori, subclavato, ultimo paullo breviori, elongato-subovato.

Thorax parallelepipedus, latitudine paullo longior, capitis medii diametro transverso et elytrorum basi æqualis, disco complanatus et subdepressus, lateribus muticus, haud marginatus, sed deflexo-rotundatus, subtus sine ora in antepectus transiens, angulis omnibus obtusatis et rotundatis, margine antico subemarginatus ad capitis receptionem, basi truncatus, fulvo-fimbriatus.

Dorsolum distinctum, corneum, formam laminæ in ambitu fulvociliatæ exhibens.

Scutellum distinctum, parvum, corneum, apice rotundatum, sericeovillosum, villis depressis incumbentibus.

Elytra thorace plus quam triplo longiora, rigida, linearia, versus apicem vix paullisper latiora, glabra, incumbentia, utrinque vix deflexa, marginata, humeris vix prominentibus, rotundatis, apice singulatim rotundata, mutica, disco lineis duabus longitudinalibus elevatis obsoletis ad apicem excurrentibus.

Antepectus simplex, partem contiguam et indivisam inferiorem thoracis formans, uniforme, immarginatum, rotundatum, glabrum, postice utrinque ad receptionem pedum anteriorum emarginatum, ponesternum intra coxas pedum siraulans.

Medipectus breve, inæquale, ellipticum, medio sinuatum, utrinque ad receptionem pedum intermediorum emarginatum, medio postice foveolatum.

Postpectus longitudine prothoracis, scutiforme, convexum, medio linea longitudinali impressum, pube densissima obductum, parapleuris utrinque distinctis angustis ad insertionem coxæ utriusque pedis postici terminantibus præditum.

Pedes simplices, breviusculi, validi, æquales, antici et postici extensi, nec caput, nec abdomen longitudine excedentes: *femora* incrassata, compressa; *tibiæ* validiusculæ, subrectæ, apice intus vix calcare subtili instructæ; *tarsi* quadriarticulati, articulis tribus prioribus breviusculis, longitudine æqualibus, subdilatatis, subtus pulvinatis, primo trigono, secundo breviori, simili, tertio latiori, bilobo, quarto tenui, arcuato, nudo, longitudinis

duorum præcedentium insimul, apice unguiculis duobus brevibus validiusculis instructo.

Abdomen subparallelum, pallidius, griseo-pubescentis, segmentis sex compositum, quorum primum sub postpectore occultum, angustum, in duas partes remotas laterales divisum; secundum latissimum, antice medio convexum, carinula inter coxas pedum posticorum interposita; sequentia paullo breviora, parallela, marginibus posticis pallide limbatis; ultimum brevius, paullo angustatum, apice medio emarginatum; ano subtus protruso bifido.

SPECIES 1. T. PALLIDIPENNIS: subcylindrico-depressus, ater, nitidus; capite antice subretuso, rude punctato; thorace parallelepipedo, mutico, arctim subtilius punctato; disci linea media longitudinali, callosa, polita, medio quasi perforata, aliaque utrinque laterali abbreviata, antice crassiori, punctisque tribus lateralibus impressis cicatricosis oblique triangulatim positis; elytris linearibus parallelis, apicem versus vix paullisper latioribus, muticis, glabris, marginatis, testaceis; disci lineis duabus longitudinalibus elevatis, ad apicem rotundatum, obsolete excurrentibus; pedibus atro-piceis. *Variat* colore piceo.

Longitudo ab apice mandibularum ad anum trium fere pollicum, *latitudo* ad humeros elytrorum septem, ad apicem eorum octo ad novem linearum.

Habitat in provincia *Entre Rios* reipublicæ Argentinensis Americæ meridionalis, arbores corrodens. Tab. 2. fig. 1. magnitudine naturali; fig. 2. maxilla cum palpis; fig. 3. mentum cum palpis labialibus.

The external form of this beetle bears such a striking resemblance to some of the genera of the tribe (or, I should rather say, family,) PRIONIDA, that I do not doubt but that it will be ranged, without hesitation, in the same family, inasmuch as its habits and metamorphoses are in all probability similar to other PRIONIDA; for, although the singular filiform or rather short and almost subserrated or submoniliform antennæ, the distinct tooth at the insertion of the mentum on both sides of the mouth, and the unarmed thorax of this beetle, seem to approach the genus *Parandra*, which *Latreille* (Gen. Crustaceor. et Insector. III. 28) had established as the first of his *Prionii*, but which *M. Audinet Serville* (l. c.) has lately entirely excluded from them, there are yet so many grounds for agreeing with the proposed collocation, that I cannot abstain from placing the new genus TORNEUTES at the head of the true family PRIONIDA, especially as it really seems to be a link of

the circular chain connecting all the xylophagous Coleoptera, and especially the three principal genera of the tribus *Prionii* of Latreille (Règne Animal, 2e edit.), viz. *Spondylis*, *Parandra*, and *Prionus*, with its numerous *subgenera*.

Having already mentioned some of the corresponding characters between *Parandra* and *Torneutes*, I have only to add, that the latter is distinguished by its twelve, not eleven-jointed antennæ, by its straight (not filiform) mandibles, by its rounded (neither depressed nor margined) thorax, by its short and stout feet, and by the absence of that singular appendage between the two lobes of the penultimate joint of the tarsi, characterising the larger species of the genus PARANDRA, whence it cannot be thought proper to unite them in the same genus: and however there may exist some resemblance between the genus *Spondylis* and that of *Torneutes*, in their external form, and especially their thorax and *habitus*, there are yet essential differences in the internal structure of their mouth and in their legs, so that it will be equally impossible to arrange them together. It seems, therefore, indispensable to place this new genus at the head of the *Prionida*, immediately in connection with the family to which *Parandra* is removed, but of which last-named genus the economy is identical with that of *Torneutes*.

Four specimens of *TORNEUTES pallidipennis* have been sent to me, agreeing in every respect. One of them has been presented to the Royal Collection of the University of Berlin; two (one with mutilated mandibles) are preserved in my own Collection; the fourth, destined for the Collection of the President of the Entomological Society, has been lost on its way to England, and was distinguished by a rudiment of a second small lateral abbreviated line, which is to be seen in the annexed figure.

The name is derived from the Greek word *τορνευτης*, *tornator*, alluding to its corroding the bark and wood of a high tree, unknown to me, in the province of *Entre Rios*.

It is clear, that the natural character of a genus, borrowed from a single species, may be very likely to embrace many of those marks which are rather diagnostics of the species itself. I hope, therefore, to be excused, if in case of any further increase of the number of species belonging to the new genus *Torneutes*, a modification of its generic character, as it is established in this essay, should be found requisite.

Berlin, Aug. 1835.